

B E D W E L L Y



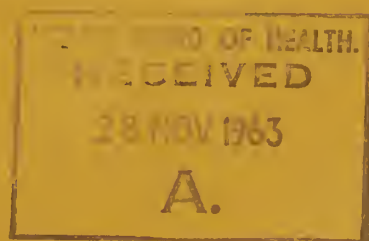
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**The Annual Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health**

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1962.



B E D W E L L Y



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**The Annual Reports of the
Medical Officer of Health**

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1962.

BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962 - 1963

Chairman - Councillor T. I. Davies, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor G. H. Thomas

MEMBERS

Councillor	Mrs. H. Baker	Councillor	G. H. Hawker
"	I. J. Bowen	"	E. G. Hodges
"	R. R. Bryant	"	E. Johns
"	P. Bullen, D.F.C.	"	K. Meade
"	E. J. Butler	"	R. J. Nash
"	J. Coleman	"	W. E. Park, B.A.
"	W. D. Cole	"	F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
"	D. Davies	"	J. Salway
"	B. Gibbs, J.P.	"	J. D. Turner
"	W. Hardacre	"	F. J. Walters, B.A.
Councillor S. J. Williams			

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor W. Hardacre

Vice-Chairman - Councillor D. Davies

Councillor	I. J. Bowen	Councillor	E. G. Hodges
"	R. R. Bryant	"	K. Meade
"	J. Coleman	"	F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
"	W. D. Cole	"	J. Salway
"	T. I. Davies, J.P.	"	G. H. Thomas
"	B. Gibbs, J.P.	"	J. D. Turner

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	Dr. Richard Hoey, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P, D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	A. M. Coleman, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector...	...	...	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector	...	...	G. H. Gane, M.A.P.H.I.
Rodent Operator	...	...	C. Shelton
Mortuary & Post Mortem Attendant (Part Time)	...	...	E. Jones
Clerk	...	...	K. Rees

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1962

Area of District in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	7,353
Population (Census 1931) ...	...	...	...	...	30,970
(Census 1951) ...	...	...	...	...	28,826
(Census 1961) ...	...	...	...	...	27,336
Estimated Population for Birth and Death Rates 1962	...				27,470
Number of Inhabited Houses (31/12/62)	..	...	...	...	7,282
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	3.7
Rateable Value 1962	...	...	...	...	£212,031
Product of Penny Rate 1962	...	...	...	...	£809
Number of Births ...	...	...	...	...	484
Net Birth Rate ...	...	...	...	...	17.6
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Deaths of Residents	...	...	...	...	307
Net Death Rate ...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Number of Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	12
Of these there were Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	24.8
Number of Women Dying from Childbirth	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...				3
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	...	...			1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	...	...			36
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	...	...			18
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	...	...			NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases					105
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	...	...			53

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
1952	653	300
1953	554	333
1954	534	327
1955	492	319
1956	537	313
1957	527	332
1958	500	285
1959	463	304
1960	499	296
1961	494	322
1962	484	307

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Municipal Offices,

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

16th October, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

THE ESTABLISHMENT

Some time ago I had the honour to be a member of the major deputation which met the Welsh Board of Health to ask for a base hospital to be built at the Bryn, Pontllanfraith. The question was whether enough money would be available to build one additional hospital to those already planned.

I think that one should explain the size of a hospital in relation to beds. A really big hospital has a thousand beds or more. Many London hospitals are of seven to eight hundred beds and three to four hundred beds is possibly the minimum convenient size for a general hospital which can deal with anything except the superspecialities. The term "Base" hospital has now been dropped and the term "District" has been substituted, but the geographical location of the hospital, in relation to the population it serves, is the most profound and vital issue. However there are many hospitals of less than a hundred beds, which by reason of their present existence and their special function nobody would think it necessary to dispense with, although in order to modernise the hospital system the chopper must fall on some of them. Fever hospitals are an exception, as the number of beds is no indication as to the size of the staff. They indicate the number of beds which could be staffed in an epidemic under emergency conditions, but they are also used for a multiplicity of purposes so I have included them in Appendix I. Unfortunately many people have deep sentimental attachment to some of these hospitals and this was one factor which led to our present unfortunate predicament i.e. an industrial population of over 100,000 without a district hospital within easy reach.

Although we were complimented on the quality of our memorandum our plea was rejected on two main issues: 1. the danger of subsidence 2. the undesirability of introducing another large hospital within the triangle of Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff and Newport.

My own impression at the time was that the new teaching hospital at the Heath, Cardiff, about 800 beds, would replace most of the existing Cardiff hospitals, that the new Royal Gwent would be about 500 beds and the new hospital at Neville Hall, Abergavenny and at Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil about 400. In these hospitals all techniques would be situated under one roof and then as time went on old hospitals such as St. Woollo's, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, St. Tydfils and Merthyr General would become obsolete and as more funds became available the network would be extended so that the benefits of the hospital care cum public health system propounded so brilliantly by Dr. Greenwood Wilson would become available all over the country.

Then the Blue Book was published. This gave Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil 569 beds, the Royal Gwent 852, St. Woollo's 364 and Neville Hall 479. In the Cardiff area the University Hospital of Wales 782, Cardiff Royal Infirmary 355, The Llanough 380, to be further extended, and a whole lot of others feature from this area, see Appendix I.

One thing I am certain of is that if a determined attempt had been made to find a site in this area one would have been made available. On the Bryn site over 200 private houses are to be built. At East Glamorgan Hospital, Pontypridd, which is also on the coalfield, an extension is scheduled under the 1st Revision plan.

In order to see the true reason for reluctance to bring a hospital to the Pontllanfraith area let us now survey what is happening in London.

London is divided into four Regional Board Areas, with apices at the centre of London and running out to the South Coast, East Anglia and the Midlands. However the best and most respected hospitals, the teaching hospitals, are independent of the Regional Boards. Barts and Guys have undergone extensive alterations and improvements since the Blitz, St. Thomas's is about to be completely rebuilt on its present site and with the other undergraduate teaching hospitals and postgraduate teaching hospitals, are situated in an area hardly bigger than Cardiff. Much of the populations they used to serve have been rehoused in satellite towns such as Harlow and Crawley or moved far out into the suburbs, whilst blocks and blocks of office buildings go up where once dwelt London's millions. These hospitals have the best diagnosis and treatment in the world and people can come to Town for it or lump it. Since every patient expects to be visited by two of his relatives daily, why have none of these hospitals moved with their populations? The answer is quite simple. The heart and central nervous system of the whole Establishment is Harley Street.

Some of the most eminent consultants actually have houses and live in Harley Street. However a pair of downstairs rooms are let off to two or say four more junior men who share a secretary and telephone. Then there are eminent specialists who rent the most formidable part of a Harley Street address and live a little way out. However once the working day starts the problem of quick transit between teaching hospitals and consulting room is vital. They are hard working men and they are paid by cheque. Like the Savoy Hotel, Harley Street has made a comeback. Then there are other well know streets and doctors who are not specialist pretending they are, the charlatans and the smart alocs who live on the fringe. It does not appear that the National Health Service has knocked out this element now that there is plenty of money about.

The obvious interpretation of the Blue Book is that there will be three miniature Harley Streets for the population of our Urban Districts to choose from in Cardiff, in Newport and in Abergavenny. Pontllanfraith is an awkward place to get to for busy consultants and so if our patients want treatment they can "come in" for it. With a bit of luck the waiting list will be done away with when the new hospitals are completed in 1975. But what of the population explosion?

Ever since the Blue Book was published in 1960 forecasting and allowing for a decrease in the population, the birth rate has jumped alarmingly. So have the number of vehicles on the roads, also the size and speed of buses and lorries. When petrol was rationed it took a little over twenty minutes to drive from Blackwood to Newport, now it may take an hour and there seems to be little prospect of any form of aerial transport so why put all these extra cars and ambulances on the road to slow up other forms of transport? However, the future is difficult to foretell but it is obvious that there are going to be the most drastic changes in the next twenty years. The value of private building land has now become considerable and all possible building sites are being eagerly sought after. It seems most unlikely that the populations here will do anything but increase by leaps and bounds. The populations explosion has started and we are in the marginal area at least and still the infantile mortality rate falls.

So could not the authorities have one more little think about our hospital?

At the centre of a community geographically separated by mountain ranges and difficult overcrowded roads from the four new hospitals and their satellites there is need for efficient community care. Public Health is moving now from paediatrics and geriatrics, the care of the young and the old to a healthier and more efficient force of adult workers. Adults are the hardest to get at as they dislike losing shifts to see doctors until their illness had advanced much further than it need have done, and it is only with the co-operation of employers, trade unions, professional bodies etc. that this work can ever be carried out. The general practitioner and the public health and industrial services should be brought together in the hospital with the hospital hierarchy, and the recently published Platt and Porritt reports suggest how this can be done. There should be a new grade of medical specialists senior to registrar and below consultant rank who could be the backbone of the service and ensure a continuity of careers and proximity of all branches of the medical profession. But how can all these things be achieved in a heavy industrial area without a hospital? We need acute medical and surgical units with all the modern techniques of laboratory and radiological diagnoses, modern wards with day rooms where the up-patients can sit and read in peace or watch television uninterrupted if that is what they like. This will not be achieved by patching up old workhouses but by building and designing completely new hospital units. Patients with fractured skulls, spinal vertebrae and thigh bones travel poorly and if they are moved long distances to hospital they may die en route - not a very cheerful prospect for workers in the country's most dangerous industry! Many people have suffered from piles for years and are ashamed to go to their family doctors. Imagine coming back from Cardiff or Abergavenny in the bus after having an injection for this uncomfortable ailment! Better perhaps than the all day odyssey of the ambulance sitting case. High blood pressure should be diagnosed in the early stages before albuminuria has set in, and there is a host of new blood tests which have been introduced since I left hospital fifteen years ago. General practitioner hospitals are all very well but

once a doctor enters general practice it appears to be the end of the road for him at present. Six months at least every ten years should be spent in hospital by every doctor who is still practising his profession, without pecuniary loss. I suggest that the cost of this scheme could be met out of expensive drugs given for the wrong ailment and another and another tried until the patient has a bit of pharmaceutical luck, has gone to hospital or just simply died of intercurrent illness. Lastly one can mention the problem of parking in and around hospitals. If the patient is well enough to drive, getting in and out of the parking area may cause him great trouble. Otherwise somebody else has to go with him. Then the cost of car journeys is always higher than his bus fares which in themselves, Appendix II will show, to be staggering. Although established consultants and senior assistants might be reluctant to go to Pontllanfraith there are dozens and dozens of perfectly well qualified consultants who never find an opening in this country and so go overseas to the U.S.A., to the commonwealth countries, colonies and elsewhere working perhaps in the jungle or the desert in order to obtain their heart's desire in a certain speciality and the overall assumption is pure nonsense. The question of increased staff is urgent and vital, and I wonder if the present proposed scheme, see Appendix I, ever comes into operation what will be the annual toll of dead and injured visitors and patients on their way to and from hospital, particularly from this area.

APPENDIX I

Staffed beds in Cardiff 1975. Cardiff population 1963 - 256,582.

University Hospital of Wales	...	...	...	782
Cardiff Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	355
Llandough	...	...	...	380+
Cardiff Maternity	...	...	...	100
St. Mary's, Penarth	...	...	...	38
Sully	...	...	...	310
Lansdowne	...	...	...	170
Childrens' E.N.T.	...	...	...	50
Royal Hamadryad	...	...	...	60
South Wales Radiotherapy	...	...	...	71
St. David's, Cardiff	...	...	...	440
Total				<u>2,756+</u>

By including Sully as a Cardiff hospital I do not think I am overstating the case. I have omitted the Prince of Wales Orthopaedic hospital. The newly planned extensions to Llandough proves our present hopeless prospects.

Staffed beds Newport 1975. Newport populations 1961 - 102,101.

Royal Gwent Hospital	...	...	...	852
St. Woolos, Newport	...	...	...	364
Allt-yr-yn, Newport	...	...	...	110
Total				<u>1,326</u>

Staffed beds Rhymney and Sirhowy Valleys 1975.

Population 1961 - 152,320.

St. James's, Tredegar	...	...	...	...	110
Aberbargoed	...	...	...	...	36
Caerphilly Miners	...	...	...	...	180
Total					<u>326</u>

These beds will be mainly geriatric. It is difficult to allow for population living near boundaries of Cardiff and Newport.

APPENDIX II

Fares to hospitals supplied by courtesy of C. Pugh, Esq., Manager, West Mon Omnibus Board.

<u>To</u>	<u>Return Fare</u>
Newport via Blackwood	5/10d.
Newport via Bargoed	5/10d.
Cardiff via Bargoed and Pengam. - by train -	6/1 before 9.30 ex Bargoed. 4/4 after 9.30 ex Bargoed.
Tredegar via Markham	3/5d.
Tredegar via Bargoed	4/2d.
Abergavenny via Bargoed & Tredegar	8/3d.
Abergavenny via Markham & Tredegar	7/6d.
Merthyr via Bargoed	5/6d.
Caerphilly via Bargoed	4/-d.
Caerphilly via Pengam	3/9d.

The fares from Aberbargoed are fairly representative of the whole area, but fares will vary according to home and destination of patient. The train service in the Rhymney Valley to Cardiff seems to be the brightest spot in the gloomy picture.

I am, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. HOEY.

Medical Officer of Health

B I R T H S 1 9 6 2

The births registered during the year:

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	
Legitimate	247	221	
Illegitimate	8	8	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	255	229	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	17.6
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate	...	...	3.3
Stillbirths	...	...	16
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	32.0
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	500

D E A T H S 1 9 6 2

No. of deaths during year	...	...	...	...	...	307
The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers						11.1

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
11.55	11.34	11.16	11.85	10.15	10.83	10.5	11.7	11.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
1 - 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
2 - 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
3 - 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total under 1 month								<u>5</u>
1 - 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
3 - 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
6 - 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
9 - 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total deaths								<u>12</u>

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	24.8
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Legitimate	...	...	23.5
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks)	...	...	10.3

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE

NIL

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (Live and Still):

Bedwellty	...	...	...	NIL
Monmouth County	...	...	...	0.47

CAUSES OF DEATH 1962

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-
Measles	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Parasite Disease	-	-
Cancer (Stomach)	5	4
Cancer (Lung)	10	-
Cancer (Breast)	-	4
Cancer (Uterus)	-	2
Cancer (Other Sites)	17	11
Leukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	20
Coronary Disease - Angina	30	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	5
Other Heart Diseases	13	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	8
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	8	10
Bronchitis	27	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	9	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoe	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	2
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	10	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
Other Accidents	9	4
Suicide	1	-
TOTALS	172	135

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR .

CAUSES	under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total
PREMATURITY	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
PNEUMONIA	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
CIRCULATORY DISEASE	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
GASTRO ENTERITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
BRONCHITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
CONVULSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
VIOLENCE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ASPHYXIA	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
OTHER CAUSES	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
TOTAL	3	2	0	0	4	3	0	0	12

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

MALES

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Labourer	1	-
Factory Worker	1	-
Unknown	1	-

FEMALES

Factory Worker	1	-
Under School Age	1	-

HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT

OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
Glan Ely	-	-	1	4
S. Wales San., Talgarth	1	2	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	11	6	-	1
Sully Hospital	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	14	10	1	5

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF
NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases	Non-Pulmonary Cases
January	1	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	1	-
June	-	-
July	1	-
August	-	-
September	2	-
October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
	5	0

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS
FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE
LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1953	34	11
1954	37	2
1955	38	3
1956	26	3
1957	26	1
1958	34	9
1959	14	10
1960	28	3
1961	12	2
1962	5	3

T U B E R C U L O S I S

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following Table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during 1962.

Age Period in Years	N E W C A S E S						D E A T H S					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 5	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
6 - 14	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
15 - 24	-	2	2	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
25 - 44	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
45 - 64	2	-	2	-	-	0	1	1	2	-	-	0
65 and over	1	-	1	-	-	0	1	-	1	-	-	0
Total	3	2	5	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

Year	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 Yrs	6 - 15 Yrs	16 & over
1951	3	4	29
1952	1	1	36
1953	3	4	25
1954	3	2	32
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18
1957	2	4	20
1958	1	5	19
1959	3	1	10
1960	4	1	23
1961	2	1	8
1962	-	-	5

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Five cases of measles were notified during the year, two from the Blackwood Ward, two from the Cefn Fforest Ward and one from the Markham Ward.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health Department,

(Telephone: Bargoed 2137)

Municipal Offices,

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

12th July, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in your
Public Health Department during 1962.

.....

NOTICES SERVED

(a) Under Public Health Act 1936

(i) informal notices in respect of repairs and nuisances (Section 92)	...	...	...	119
(ii) abatement notices requiring repairs to dwellings (Section 93)	...	...	...	83
(iii) requiring cleansing of premises	...	...	...	6
(iv) requiring drainage repairs (Section 39)	...	...	...	2

(b) Under Public Health Act 1961

(i) requiring urgent repair works (Section 26)	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) Under Housing Act 1961

(i) requiring provision of amenities in a house let in multi-occupation (Section 15)	...	...	...	1
(ii) requiring means of escape in case of fire in a multi-occupied house (Section 16)	...	...	...	1

HOUSING

A. REPAIR OF HOUSES

(i)	No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of informal notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
(ii)	No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of formal abatement notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	73

Included in (ii) above were eleven cases which required application for Nuisance Orders at the Magistrates' Courts.

The type of repairs required by the above notices and executed by owners related to:-

Roof repairs (including gutters and downspouts)	...	109
Dampness	...	56
Sanitary accommodation	...	40
Interior repairs (including window frames, floors, plastering of walls and ceilings)	...	104
Other items	...	32

B. HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

Re housing of displaced persons from houses dealt with under Demolition and Closure procedure of the Housing Act 1957 in 1961 was commenced in late December.

One house (3, Berllangron, Blackwood) was closed and as it was vacant, no rehousing was required.

C. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The number of applications (40) for Discretionary and Standard Grants has been disappointingly low during the year although circulars were sent to all house owners in the area drawing their attention to the availability of these grants. Further, the Council approached the National Coal Board asking them to commence a scheme in the Rhymney Valley where there are over 900 N.C.B. houses, over 90% of which are without bathrooms. Towards the end of the year, a deputation of the Council arranged to meet representatives of the N.C.B. Standard Grant and Discretionary Grant work was completed in 25 houses during the year, 40 new applications having been received.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Routine inspections are made in respect of:-

- (i) repairs of an urgent nature, such repairs being notified to the Housing Manager.
- (ii) cleanliness.

Approximately four hundred and fifty such visits were made.

One tenant was evicted for not maintaining his house in a reasonable state of cleanliness. This was done after repeated efforts by officers of this Council and by officers of the County Council, in attempting to improve conditions.

All prospective tenants and transfers are visited and vacated Council houses are examined for cleanliness. Approximately one hundred such inspections were made in 1962.

In three instances it was necessary to spray a vacant Council house with insecticide. Vermin infestation of Council houses can now be regarded as almost negligible.

WATER SUPPLY

Sampling of the Rhymney Valley and Sirhowy Valley supplies has been carried out at various points in the supplies at approximately fortnightly intervals. This sampling was, however, done at shorter intervals during one period when results were not satisfactory in all cases.

Of the 58 samples taken in the Rhymney Valley, nine showed coliform bacilli counts and of these six also had bact. coli (type 1). There were complaints of discolouration of the water especially after heavy rains following a dry period. A visit was made to the Rhymney Water Board works and also a deputation of members of the Public Health Committee met the Board at Ystrad Mynach. Explanations were given by the Chairman and Engineer of the Board and it was stated that by the end of October 1963, a new filtration plant would be in operation, £40,000 being spent on modernisation.

The Sirhowy Valley supply was examined on 23 occasions, 45 samples being taken. Ten of these samples had counts of coliform bacilli found on investigation to be due to repair work being carried out on the mains. There are no case of bact. coli (type 1).

Samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport and the co-operation of Dr. R.D. Gray and his staff in their prompt reporting of results is appreciated.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a Rodent Operator and during two six-weekly periods (January and July), a casual labourer is also engaged to assist in the sewer maintenance treatment when a systematic baiting of sewer manholes is carried out through the area.

The number of infestations - all of a minor character - has been fairly uniform during the past few years, although the sewer treatment results have proved that there is less infestation in sewers, and where this infestation occurs it is in pockets. It is reasonable to assume that infestations are due to refuse dumps and garden and vegetable waste heaps. More care in protecting garden compost heaps is a necessity.

Warfarin poison is generally used and zinc phosphide where there is no danger of domestic animals being poisoned. For sewer treatment warfarin with a mould inhibitor is proving effective over a long period.

Banks of the Sirhowy and Rhymney rivers were surveyed for rat infestation and baited where necessary.

One notice was served under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. The notice required rat proofing at a grocery store in New Tredegar. The work was carried out effectively by the occupiers.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

No. of autopsies carried out during 1962 ... 47

A fee of two guineas is paid by the Coroner on each occasion for the cleaning of the mortuary.

The Council have a contract with two undertakers - one in the Rhymney Valley and one in the Sirhowy Valley - to remove to the mortuary any person found dead on the highway. The Police have been notified of this service in case of emergency.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

Two persons, one from Pengam and the other from Aberbargoed were buried by the authority. No arrangements had been made by relatives for the disposal of the bodies owing to lack of means.

REFUSE

Refuse collection and disposal by tipping is carried out by the Surveyor's Department. It is pleasing to report that nearly all the houses in the Rhymney Valley have now been supplied with proper refuse bins.

Tips are regularly visited by the Rodent Operator.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In May 1962 the use of the deposit gauge and lead peroxide candle at the Aberbargoed collecting point was discontinued. It was replaced by the volumetric smoke concentration measurement machine which is situated in the office with an outside air intake. Daily readings are taken and this work is parallel to the examination of samples for radio-activity. The daily smoke concentrations are read in the Monmouthshire County Health Department, Caerleon. Measurement of the sulphur dioxide is assessed in the office every morning and the results of both smoke concentration and SO₂ are sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Stevenage as part of the National Survey.

Other statistics are also being calibrated in order to give a more complete picture of the pollution in relation to air temperature, wind, direction, etc. and it is hoped that in next years' report that a graph can be presented to show some correlation of these figures.

SPOILBANK, BRITANNIA COLLIERY, CEFN FFOREST

Burning at this tip became more widespread and after negotiations with the N.C.B. in 1961, there had been no appreciable improvement. It was then agreed that the best practicable means of containing the fire was to cover the surface with fly ash and this should be sealed with incombustible material and shale.

Thanks are due to assistance and advice give by Dr. Thomas, Welsh Board of Health, by representatives of the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Alkali Inspectors, and the local Council members, who conferred with the N.C.B. representatives at the office, prior to an inspection of the Tip. The nuisance from burning was kept to a minimum level, although there was a dust nuisance due to the fly ash not being sealed over quickly. Tipping was discontinued towards the end of the year and a new tip commenced with a more satisfactory method of tipping by the use of a side tippler.

The old tip continues to burn and is being kept under observation.

RENT ACT 1957

No application was made for a Certificate of Disrepair under this Act. The last application was made in 1960.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is sewered by two trunk sewers, one in each valley. Only a few outlying cottages are not on the water carriage system.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is no licensed pet shop in the area.

The owners of a pet meat shop in Blackwood Market were found to be selling the meat in small diced amounts which did not show evidence of staining as required by the Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations 1960, although the larger pieces in a refrigerator in the shop had staining marks. Arrangements were made for the polythene bagged meat to be adequately stained, because it was felt that unstained portions could possibly be used as pie-meat.

SHOPS ACT 1950

This Act, the main provisions of which relate to conditions of employment, hours of closing, early closing, Sunday trading, etc. is enforced by the Council.

The early closing day in the Area for shops other than butchers (Monday) is Thursday, with Saturday as an alternative, but this is generally adhered to by traders although during the year some difficulties occurred with hairdressers who altered their early closing day.

Evening visits are made to check on general closing hours etc. and here difficulty is experienced with the smaller general stores in side-streets. Due to the exemptions in the Act for the sale of various commodities and the multiplicity of goods offered for sale by these shops, many offences can only be noted by witnessing actual sales. Some offences were noted and warning letters were sent to traders concerned.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All hairdressers' and barbers' premises have been inspected, attention being paid to the cleanliness of the premises, equipment and personnel and also the enforcement of the Shops Act relating to ventilation, lighting, heating, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, hours of closing and half-day closing, etc.

Many of the ladies' hairdressers employ young persons and attention is paid to their conditions of employment and hours worked etc.

All hairdressers and barbers and their premises are required to register with the Council and local byelaws based on the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been adopted and are in force from 1st January 1963.

WARD	REGISTERED PREMISES OF HAIRDRESSERS	
	LADIES	GENTLEMEN
New Tredegar	3	1
Aberbargoed	2	1
Pengam & Fleur-de-lys	2	2
Cefn Fforest	1	2
Blackwood	8	3
Argoed	-	-
Markham	-	1
Hollybush	1	-

CINEMAS AND OTHER PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

The two cinemas were inspected and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Miners' Welfare Institutes and Billiard Halls were inspected mainly for suitability and adequacy of sanitary accommodation. Letters were sent to the respective secretaries of three Institutes regarding decoration and arrangement of sanitary accommodation.

At dance halls where refreshments are provided attention is paid to food hygiene requirements and in one case, a letter was sent regarding the state of decoration in the food preparation room.

FOOD SUPERVISION

(a) GENERAL

A great deal of the work of the Department has been centred on the supply of clean-food in a hygienic manner. Food distributors are generally "hygiene conscious" and from this aspect, it is pleasing to see the development of the food shops nowadays with good lighting, easily cleansed fittings, impervious wall and floor surfaces. This is one advantage of the supermarket type of shop with prepacked foods eliminating sources of contamination by handlers.

An item which can give rise to false security is refrigeration display. On many occasions the Inspector has given advice on this subject. The wrong use of refrigerators - food transferred from shop temperature to refrigerator and back again - especially in wrappings, lead to depreciation and to rapid deterioration as in the case of frozen chickens.

Deep freeze containers where turn-over is small with infrequent defrosting maintenance and poor rotation of stock can lead to the foods not retaining their intended "freshness" quality. Some method of code marking or date stamping of packages would be a great advantage. This is done with some commodities such as bacon joints and rashers. Pies transferred from low temperature cabinets to shop windows in the sun's rays and back again, quickly deteriorate with mould formation. Much work has been done when inspecting shops in advising correct use of refrigeration.

In a few instances it was necessary to require the proprietors of cake shops to erect protective screens near cake stands in windows to prevent risk of customers handling and otherwise contaminating the food.

One successful prosecution was taken at New Tredegar Police Court in respect of four contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

FOOD SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

(a) GENERAL (CONT'D)

The offences related to:-

Failure to provide washing facilities

Exposure of food to risk of contamination

Dirty floor

Accumulation of refuse in shop.

The shop manager was fined on each count.

(b) ICE CREAM

Serial sampling of ice cream from manufacturing vendors gave good results throughout the season with the exception of soft ice cream. Whilst being satisfied with the bacteriological purity of the "traditional" ice cream, apprehension is felt over the standard of soft ice cream. A great deal depends on the personnel carrying out cleansing of the apparatus at night and morning. There appears to be a laxity in efficient evening cleansing when the vans return to their depots, sufficient time and care not being taken by the operators. Supervision is a practical impossibility in every case and one must rely on the integrity of staff operating the respective vehicles.

Since the issue of a code of practice and special supervision there has been a marked improvement.

100% of samples of "traditional" ice cream fell into Grades 1 and 2 - a very pleasing result.

(c) FRIED FISH SHOPS

The number of these premises is steadily decreasing due probably to an increase in the number of mobile fish and chip vans plying the district. The hygienic condition of the shops and vans is satisfactory and it was not necessary to notify any contraventions of the Regulations.

(d) PITHEAD CANTEENS

The three canteens - at Elliotstown, Markham and Britannia Collieries - are kept in a satisfactory condition. The proprietors comply with any suggestions and requests made by the Department.

(e) FACTORY CANTEENS

Only three factories provide meal facilities, one of these on a "snack" basis. One canteen was subject to default under the Food Hygiene Regulations, but at the end of the year work was in hand by the management.

FOOD SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

(f) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CLUBS

These premises were inspected during and out of licensing hours. It is felt that the practice and methods of landlords and stewards is as important as the installation of hygienic equipment. In the case of the latter, breweries and clubs generally give good co-operation and items of contraventions usually fall into category of decoration and maintenance of bar shelves and counters, cellars and sanitary accommodation.

However, in nearly one-third of the premises, a recent bad practice has been noted, and one which the breweries themselves severely deprecate. Drips from overfilled and used dirty glasses, received into a drip tray, are led back into the pipelines supplying the beer from barrels to the pumps. Especially during busy periods, unless every glass is cleansed before refilling the liquid is contaminated with overflow material which is liable to give rise to infection. Again, this filthy practice is all too apparent when one sees a filled drip tray during a morning inspection and one realises that this liquid will probably find its way back into the beer pipe lines. Landlords and stewards have been told to remove the gadgets used to convey the beer back to the pipelines because their continued use will lead to prosecution.

The law of weights and measures is such that half-pint and pint measures are to be used and these are to be filled to the brim to give imperial measure. This lends itself to overfilling during rush hours and the consequent spillage. Such spillage is not directly compensated by the breweries who say that it is due to careless filling and anyhow the beer has already been paid for by the customer.

The use of marked glasses with a measure line on the glass about $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the rim may be the answer but the glasses are expensive and the actual measurement during filling has practical difficulties. Pressurised kegs where it is an impossibility to replace spillage seems to be a good answer. Further, beer engines could supply a measured quantity under seal (such as in the delivery of petrol). Some of these machines are already registered by the Board of Trade (1305, 978 and 1286). The most reasonable solution to the question is the supply of beer in sealed bottles.

The Food and Drugs Act 1955 Section 2 forbids the addition of material "not of the nature, substance or quality demanded" and in this respect as well as from a Food Hygiene Regulations point of view, this whole matter is one deserving attention of the Public Health Department and the general public who frequent licensed premises.

Another matter which has received attention at these premises is the use of first floor rooms for entertainment. The Chief Fire Officer of the Monmouthshire Fire Brigade has co-operated by sending his Fire Prevention Officer to give advice on means of escape in case of fire as required by Section 59 of the Public Health Act 1936.

FOOD SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

(g) MILK SUPPLIES

Periodic samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newport.

Fifty-four samples from schools and from vendors - taken at approximately fortnightly intervals - were all satisfactory except on two occasions when two samples failed the methylene blue test. The Public Health Department of the respective areas in which the pasteurising plants were situated were contacted and the inspectors made investigations. Further samples were satisfactory.

(h) MEAT INSPECTION

There is no abattoir in the area.

(i) FOOD POISONING

There was no outbreak during the year.

(j) BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The 22 butchers' shops in the area have been inspected regularly and the general standard of hygiene and cleanliness was found to be satisfactory. It was necessary to send letters to three proprietors drawing their attention to items including:-

Defective sinks

Inadequate cloakroom facilities

Defective surfaces of tables

(k) CONDEMNED FOODS

The following foods were surrendered by shopkeepers as unfit for human consumption.

<u>Meat</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Pork Loin	15	Cod	105
Pork Sausage	20	Kippers	14
Pork Shoulder	34		
Gammon	28	Canned Fish	Tins
Chopped Pork	1		
Beef	135	Salmon	9
Bacon	14		
Lamb	40		
Chicken	24		

FOOD SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

(k) CONDEMNED FOODS (CONT'D)

<u>Tinned Fruit</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>Canned Cooked Meat</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Apricots	24	Ox Tongue	6
Cherries	6	Luncheon Meat	5
Fruit Salad	21	Corned Beef	91½
Peaches	98	Pork Luncheon	45
Pears	53	Corned Mutton	6
Pineapples	40	Steak & Kidney	
Plums	20	Pudding	5
Strawberries	11	Stewed Steak	3
Fruit Cocktail	8	Minced Beef Loaf	11
		Pork Roll	16
<u>Canned Vegetables</u>	<u>Tins</u>	Pork Brawn	6
Beans	14	Jellied Veal	124
Peas	22	Tongue	19
Tomatoes	279	Cooked Ham	313½
		Irish Stew	6
<u>Other Foods</u>	<u>Tins</u>		
Evaporated Milk	36		
Rice Pudding	6		
Soup	24		
Orange Juice	5		

By weight the above represents nearly 1 ton of foodstuffs.

(l) CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

The 13 cafes and restaurants were inspected and a satisfactory standard of hygiene and cleanliness was maintained.

The majority of the premises cater for light snacks only, at three premises are cooked meals being served.

Letters were sent to three proprietors regarding minor defects, and these matters are receiving attention.

(m) SCHOOL CANTEENS

All the school canteens (17) in the area were inspected and once again it is pleasing to report that a good standard of hygiene was maintained. At some of the premises meals are simply distributed, having been prepared at other canteens and transported in insulated containers.

Minor defects were noted at some canteens and the Monmouthshire County Architect was informed.

FOOD SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

(n) FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

I am indebted to the Monmouthshire County Council Chief Weights and Measures Inspector for the following information:-

Samples taken:- 55 milk 37 other foods
 4 ice cream 8 beer

Total samples 104

The Public Analyst certified all samples to be Genuine except for the following:-

- (1) Contrary to the Milk & Dairies (Channel Island and South Devon Milk) Regulations 1956. A sample of Channel Island Milk was purchased at Markham and certified by the Public Analyst to be 10.0 parts per cent Deficient in Fat.

Fined £20 and £5. 5. Od. Advocates Fee.

- (2) A complaint was received from a member of the public that a bottle of milk which she had purchased contained a dark grey deposit.
The Public Analyst certified the milk to contain sand, calcium carbonate and cement contrary to the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Fined £5 and £5. 5. Od. Advocates Fee.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	34	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	35	37	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7.)					
(A) Insuff- icient	-	-	-	-	-
(B) Unsuitable or Defect- ive	2	2	-	1	-
(C) Not separ- ate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

Once again I wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation given by the Members and Officials, and for the continued keen approach to the work shown by the Staff of the Health Department.

I am, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.

